

REMARKS

Claims 20-36 are now present in this application. Claims 30-36 have been added. Claims 30-36 correspond to originally filed claims 2-8, but now depend from claim 28.

Telephone Interview

Applicants note with appreciation the telephone interview conducted with Examiner Nguyen on March 24, 2004. At that interview, the present Amendment was discussed.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 28 has now been revised to reinstate language which was previously omitted by accident. Accordingly, antecedent basis is now present for all terms. Also, Applicants have changed the term "extend to a degree" to "across said axis" so that this indefiniteness is also removed. Accordingly, claims 28 and 29 are now considered to be definite.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Tsutsumi et al. (USP 5,751,203). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended claim 28 to make it clear that both the first section and the third section extend across the axis to resist bending forces. This is not the case in the Tsutsumi reference where, at best, the elements extend only as far as the axis and then extend along it. While half of the widths of the element extends beyond the axis, this is not sufficient to resist bending forces parallel to the axis. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 28 is allowable.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Tsutsumi et al. in view of Yamashita (JP 10-284331). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 29 depends from allowable claim 28 and as such is also considered to be allowable. In addition, this claim recites that the cavities are for receiving a clamp during molding. Neither of the references teach this concept. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 29 is additionally allowable.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claims 20-27 to be allowable. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the chassis disclosed in independent

claim 28, as well as dependent claims 29-36, are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art utilized by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

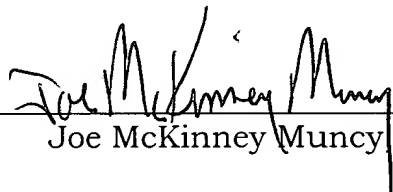
Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Joe McKinney Muncy #32,334

KM/RFG/gf
0941-0310P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000